

proof before accepting the record. After all, Cachar is some 1,600 miles south of the known southern limit of breeding!

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XI.—A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *CHLOROPSIS JERDONI* (BLYTH) AND *CHLOROPSIS A. AURIFRONS* (TEMM.) IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN BENGAL.

It seems the distribution of *Chloropsis jerdoni* (Blyth) and *C. a. aurifrons* (Temm.) in reference to Central and Lower Bengal is obscure. The *Fauna* mentions Midnapur as the easternmost limit of the range of the former, to which Mr. Whistler lends support by saying that it is 'correct' (Vernay Survey, *J.B.N.H.S.*, xxxv, 753). Jerdon writes of it as 'not extending to Lower Bengal'. Ball, however, recorded its distribution in district Burdwan (*S.F.*, vii, 215). Reports of its occurrence in 24-Perganas, Hooghly and Burdwan have from time to time reached me and on August 28, 1932, I collected one specimen ♀ from Khardah (24-Perganas). Apparently a stray or rather lonely bird though it was, there cannot be any question as to its being an 'escape' from the cage, for as a rule, females are not caught and offered for sale in the Calcutta market. I found it in a somewhat jungly waste land in the outskirts of a village: solitary and silent, clinging to low branches of *Dillenia indica* and *Alstonia scholaris* and looking for insects. Measurements: wing 90 mm., tarsus 20 mm., culmen 20 mm.

Of *C. a. aurifrons* (Temm.) the *New Fauna* has no reference to Central and Western Bengal. Blyth and Ball collected it no doubt from Midnapur. I observed it common enough at Jhargram, associating not often with *jerdoni* in *Sal* jungles. Jerdon also mentioned it from Midnapur as well as Lower Bengal. Cunningham (*Some Indian Friends and Acquaintances*, 93-4) who saw it in gardens near Calcutta wrote (1903): 'It is certainly seldom noticed, but this by no means implies that it is very rare, as birds of such quiet habit and singularly protective colouring may well fail to attract notice even where they are relatively common.' While one might not doubt the applicability of this remark in past days, the species is now unmistakably one of very very rare occurrence in Lower Bengal, specially in the immediate environs of Calcutta. Whatever stray specimens are now and then observed amidst remote villages may very well have been escapes from the cage (astonishingly huge trade in these birds goes on in the Calcutta market!), now at liberty, striving to hold their own against odds and adverse circumstances. They are invariably found to be shy and wandering locally. One such pair I have myself come across several times in the outskirts of village Bandipur, off Khardah (24-Perganas).

CALCUTTA.

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